

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 19, 23, 25, and 27 are amended. Claims 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17 and 19-30 are provisionally withdrawn from consideration. Page 3 of the Office Action, where the claims withdrawn from further consideration are identified, states there is no allowable generic or linking claim. Such is incorrect. At least for claims 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17, claim 1 has been indicated as being generic and those claims depend either directly or indirectly therefrom. Thus, upon allowance of claim 1, those claims should be rejoined and allowed. Further, it is submitted that the subject matter of claim 19 and the claims depending therefrom are directed to a method of manufacturing a slider having the structure found in claim 1. Thus, Applicants again submit that it is not an undue burden upon the Patent Office to examine the subject matter of claims 19-30 when examining the subject matter of claim 1.

The Office Action states that the application filed does not have any prior art reference copies and is also missing a Form PTO-1449 associated with the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) that was filed on April 3, 2002.

Applicants attach a copy of the date-stamped PTO receipt indicating receipt of the papers, the IDS, Form PTO-1449 and filed references. By this submission, Applicants confirm that the IDS was filed on April 3, 2002.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. JP 08-045220 A to Yoda. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yoda teaches a floating magnetic head for a hard disk wherein the head has a slider (28) with surface receiving moving air generated by the rotation of a magneto-optical disk (11) (Abstract). Yoda thus teaches a slider with a high floating height. The bottom face of the slider (28) has tapers (32,34) at both the air inflow edge side (31) and the air outflow edge

side (33) of the slider (28) (Abstract). This configuration results in the bottom face of the slider comprising three separate and clearly distinct surface parts 30,32,34 (Figs. 3(B), 7 and 11). Yoda refers to the bottom essentially flat portion of the slider 28 which lies between the taper section 32 and 34 as a rail level 30 (paras. [0006] and [0016]).

Claim 1 recites, among other features, the medium facing surface has: a first part closer to the air outflow end; a second part closer to the air inflow end; and a ridge line formed by intersection of the first part and the second part, the second part being slanted against the first part (emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that a ridge line formed by the intersection of the first part and the second part is distinguishable from the configuration of the slider with a bottom flat face disclosed by Yoda. Specifically where Yoda discloses a border part (rail level 30) between the first part (34) and the second part (32), the border part or rail level (30) is a surface, and not a ridge line.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that Yoda fails to disclose, or suggest, a slider with the features recited in independent claim 1. Applicants further respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-7 and 9 include all of the features recited in independent claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-7 and 9 are also distinguishable over Yoda for that reason and the additional features recited.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoda are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 11, 13, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoda in view of Applicants' "admitted prior art." This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The shortfalls in the application of Yoda as a reference to reject independent claim 1 are not overcome by what is alleged by the Office Action as Applicants' "admitted prior art" as described in the Description of the Related Art, contained in pages 1-13 of the Specification and the depictions in Figs. 34(A)-43. The Description of Related Art does not disclose, or suggest, a slider of a thin-film magnetic head comprising: ... a medium facing surface ... the medium facing surface has: a first part closer to the air outflow end; a second part closer to the air inflow end; and a ridge line formed by the intersection of the first part and the second part, as is recited, among other features, in independent claim 1 (emphasis added). Thus, even if it is assumed the described related art is prior art, combined with Yoda it does not disclose the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of the Applicants' described related art and Yoda therefore neither disclose nor suggest the features recited in dependent claims 11, 13, 15 and 18.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 11, 13, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied references are respectfully requested.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-30 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this Application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Copy of PTO Receipt for Filing of Papers dated April 3, 2002
Copy of Information Disclosure Statement
Copy of Form PTO-1449
Cited References

Date: January 23, 2004

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